



**The Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development**
Nashville, TN
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NEWS RELEASE

Phil Bredesen
Governor

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James Neeley
Commissioner

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are available to workers in Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Crockett, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, Montgomery, Obion, Robertson, Stewart and Weakley counties, who are out of work as a direct result of tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding that began May 4, 2003, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development James Neeley reported today.

This is a very difficult time for area residents, and we want to make sure that workers who have lost their jobs and are eligible for benefits receive their checks as quickly as possible," Neeley said. "Any workers who feel they may be eligible for benefits should go immediately to their local Labor and Workforce Development office to register for DUA."

Benefits will be paid under provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which became available when President Bush granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration in Tennessee at Governor Bredesen's request.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the program on behalf of the federal government. According to Neeley, persons unemployed as a direct result of the tornadoes, severe storms and flooding must file their claim for DUA **benefits within 30 days of this announcement.**

"Individuals who are not covered for regular unemployment benefits may qualify for disaster unemployment benefits," Neeley explained. "This includes self-employed workers and others not covered by the state unemployment insurance program whose source of income has been interrupted by the disaster damage."

Individuals should take with them to the local office income tax returns for 2002, their social security number, and any papers with wage and employment information prior to the disaster.

Weekly DUA benefit amounts are determined in the same way as regular unemployment benefits. Benefits range from \$105.00 to \$275.00 per week and are payable up to 26 weeks after the day of declaration, which was May 8, 2003. DUA benefits will end if unemployment is no longer the direct result of the disaster. Staff at the local Labor and Workforce Development offices will also provide re-employment assistance.

Persons who are unemployed should contact the Labor and Workforce Development office serving their county or an office conveniently located near them as shown below:

<u>County</u>	<u>Office Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Carroll	19870 East Main St., Huntingdon	(731)986-8217
Cheatham, Houston, Montgomery, Robertson and Stewart	file by telephone through Middle TN Call Center	(615)253-0800 or 1-877-813-0950
Chester and Madison	(Temporary Location) Tennessee Technology Center 2468 Technology Center Drive, Jackson	(731)234-9845
Crockett and Gibson	1481 Mullins Street, Humboldt	(731)784-3552
Dickson	446 Highway 46 South, Dickson	(615)441-6210
Dyer and Lake	439 McGaughey St., Dyersburg	(731)286-8300
Hardeman	103 S. Lauderdale, Bolivar	(731)658-6442
Haywood	140 South Wilson Ave., Brownsville	(731)772-3490
Henderson	67 West Church St., Lexington	(731)968-8159
Henry	1023 Mineral Wells Ave., Suite F, Paris	(731)644-7355
Lauderdale	301B Lake Drive, Ripley	(731)635-3479
Obion	1418 Stad Ave., Union City	(731)884-2621
Weakley	8714 Highway 22, Suite B., Dresden	(731)364-2554

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